

LEAGUE TABLE AS AT SEPTEMBER 1, 1951

First Division

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P	P	W	L	D	F	A	P	
Yallourn	18	11	1	6	46	27	28	South Yarra	18	7	8	3	46	38	17
Sunshine United	18	11	5	2	54	32	24	Park Rangers	18	5	7	6	41	36	16
Brighton	18	9	4	5	54	27	23	Sandringham City	18	5	9	4	37	50	14
Prahran	17	10	4	3	56	37	23	Footscray City	17	5	9	3	28	51	13
Box Hill	18	9	7	2	43	41	20	Sunshine City	18	0	18	0	17	87	0

Footscray City v. Prahran, to be played on September 8, will complete League Table.

VICTORIAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Second Annual Cabaret Ball

WEDNESDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1951

SOUTH MELBOURNE TOWN HALL

8 p.m.-2 a.m. Tickets 15/6 (Inc. Tax)

All clubs are reminded that tickets for the above are limited. A real good night has been planned, so if you haven't made any reservations, please hurry along and do so.

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PRICE
First Semi-Final Number

Soccer News

The Official Organ of
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Australia Has Been Forgotten

From "Soccer News" Overseas Correspondent

RICHARD DREYFUS



I know of a naval rating in Malta, a farmer in France, a tram conductor in London and a chimney sweep in Belgium, who have all cursed the centre-forward of South Yarra. Each one of them, in his own language, had said to a neighbor, "If only South Yarra had won last Saturday, I would have won the big prize in the football sweep."

For as every Englishman and most Continentals know, football pools are run on Australian results during the three summer months in Europe. Results are published in the British Sunday newspapers and forecasts for the coming Saturday's games on Wednesday and Thursday.

But should you take it into your head to ask one of the tens of thousands of Englishmen who fill in their football coupons every week whether he knows the name of just one player in the whole of Australia, you would most likely get the following answer: "Blimy, no! I'm not interested in the teams or the players. All I care about is the result!" In fact, what he means is that his only worry is whether he has tipped the result of the match correctly or not. For if you forecast a sufficient number of games correctly, you can win anything from a few shillings to many thousands of pounds.

I had a chat to one of the managers of a big football pool firm the other day and he told me that no one had ever won more than £3000 on Australian results. "Why," I asked, "can't I win £70,000, or even £80,000, tipping Australian match results?" A number of people have won that much on British football results. "Ah," he answered, "Australian teams are so reliable that at least ten to fifteen people get maximum points every week and the big prize is divided. When an Australian team—say, from Victoria—is picked to win on paper, well, it wins—and most people know about it. There are very few surprises in Australian soccer," he says.

But now Australia has been forgotten. The football season has begun in England. And instead of tens of thousands of football coupons, firms are receiving millions weekly. No one cares about Sandringham or South Melbourne half a world away when Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspurs come on the field.

Soccer is big business here and many maintain that the "personal touch" of the game has been lost. It may well be that they are right. I hope that when we in Australia get thousands to our games instead of hundreds, it will still be the wonderful sport that it is today.

Editorial

All communications re "Soccer News" must be sent to the Editor, V. J. M. Dixon, 42 Nelson Street, Sandringham, S.8.



It is a sad day for Soccer when the semi-final of the Dockerty Cup has to be played in an open ground. It is to the semi-finals and final that this association looks for the finance which is the life-blood of the game. Had this occurred last season Victoria could not have gone boldly to the council table in Sydney and proposed that the English team be invited and by offering £1000 towards the tour ensured that fans throughout Australia should enjoy the feast of soccer which followed the Englishmen's arrival.

It must be a lesson to all of us that, glad as we were to see the success of the English tour, there may be others who are not so glad. With the closure of No. 1 oval at Olympic Park this season this association has not been able to have sole use of No. 2 oval. All attempts to obtain the use of other grounds, even for one fixture, have failed. It is now being brought to the notice of all of us that we cannot continue in this way. A ground for the sole use of the association must be secured, and we shall have to pull our weight to get it.

During the off-season this should be the main object of the association. Let us hope that at the end of next season we shall be already in possession of such a ground and busy improving it.

The game today between Brighton (First Division) and Fifers (Second Division) is the first semi-final of the Dockerty Cup. At the time of going to press it is still uncertain when and where the second semi-final will be played. We can only advise our readers to watch the daily press for details. All we can say is that it will be between J.U.S.T. and Juventus, which have already met many times this season.

The winner of the game today will meet the winner of the J.U.S.T.-Juventus contest. We can definitely say the final will be played later this month at Olympic Park.

* * *

Sydney papers are printing statements that the results of the English tour of Australia will show a profit of £10,000. Although all of us would like to believe this, such statements should be treated with the greatest reserve. Costs of the tour were many thousands heavier than the initial estimate and many people "in the know" in Victoria will be happy if they only see Victoria's £1000 advance come back intact. However, if there is a profit "how glad we'll be."



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HOME and AWAY

By REX BENSON



LAST MINUTE DASH

Fifers after a bad season, in which it has lost last year's promotion and is now due to return to Division Three, caused a big upset in Maltese ranks by defeating George Cross last week. The Scottish team will need to be on its mettle again today to defeat Brighton.

REFEREE'S CHOICE

The ball for an English Cup Final is chosen by the referee, who is invited to the F.A. offices to mark his selection from nearly 20 unmarked brands. Three are then made available for the match.

TWO "POTS" FOR VICTORIA

Two recent visiting teams to the State had to leave behind the cups they had brought. The Victorian Juniors won the Skolnik Cup, and Melbourne University relieved Sydney of the Inter-Varsity Cup.

CLOSED GROUNDS

After constant talk on the grounds question at last we hear that three clubs have the enclosed ground matter well to the fore. Time is not ripe to announce which, but the idea is working in several different localities.

NEW NEW SOUTH WELSHMEN

Rumor has it that migrant teams in Sydney are drawing bigger crowds than the main N.S.W. teams. One new Australian spokesman stated, "The style of football played by all Sydney clubs is defunct, and much below new Australian standards." Looks like that might apply to Victoria, too.

"FAIR-ISLE FASHION"

From the recent "Soccer News" cover picture of Harry Ashworth diving at a penalty kick, it is easy to see how he stops the opposition. Merely turns round and dazzles the forwards with the pattern on the back of his jersey!

NEW SANDRINGHAM STAR

"Soccer News" cartoonist, Marg. Walker, who amused readers earlier in the season, has presented hubby Ron Walker, of Sandringham club, with a 6½ lb. baby boy. Congratulations are in order from all hands, Ron and Marge.

SOCcer IN MALTA

Goals are signalled by the hoisting at the centre of one touchline of a ball in the colors of the scoring team, so that latecomers—and people passing outside the ground!—can see at a glance the state of things. The main Empire Stadium stages match after match from dawn to dusk on Sundays.

THEY ALL COUNT

In the England v. Scotland International in 1913, the only goal of the match went to England, when Harry Hampton charged the Scottish goalkeeper over the line while holding the ball.

EX-PRAHRAN STALWART

Paddy Weatherall has been receiving praise in W.A.'s "Soccer Mail" for his good displays for Fremantle. Unfortunately, one misprint describes him as the "imitator," not the "initiator," of attacks. Paddy has now returned to Melbourne.

KNOTTY DECISION

A defender attempts to kick a forward, who although in an off-side position in the penalty area, is not interfering with play. A penalty should be awarded.

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TODAY'S TEAMS

	BRIGHTON	Dickenson	Drummond	Shrubsole	
Marsden	Cullen	Good	Jack (Capt.)	Gamble	Balabanski
		Stoddart	Lott		
Agnew	Finn	Beveridge	Morgan	Knox	Bushrod
			Tompson	McLean (Capt.)	
		Williams		Cherryholme	
			McFarlane		
			FIFERS		
			*	*	*

WORLD CUP DISPLAY**D. W. LAIDLAW CUP**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1951

JUGOSLAVIA v. IRELAND

SOUTH MELBOURNE GROUND — MIDDLE PARK, 2.45 p.m.

CURTAIN RAISER — SCHOOLBOYS

These teams are subject to last-minute alteration.

* * *

NOTICE

There will be a special souvenir number of "Soccer News" sold at the Final of the Dockerty Cup.

Clubs requiring copies sent to them, please notify Mr. Rose as soon as possible.



In this land of ours — in this Australia of kindness, of friendship, of good humoured tolerance . . . perhaps no beverage is more at home than good Australian beer. For beer is a drink Australians like. It is a part of pleasant living, of good fellowship, of sensible moderation. And our right to enjoy it . . . this too is a part of our Australian heritage of personal freedom.

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Secretary's Notes

At a special general meeting held on Wednesday, August 29, to discuss amendments to the constitution, clubs were strongly represented. Only five clubs were fined 20/- each for non-attendance. The following three major points were resolved at the meeting:—

- (1) An Independent Member has been defined as a member who is not connected with a club but can be connected with an affiliated body.
- (2) The Junior Association shall have two members on the council next season with full voting power.
- (3) A meeting of all clubs will be held each month.

Notes from Council Meeting—

- (1) Pennants have been ordered for premiers of the four Senior Divisions.
- (2) Report has been received of the "Kangaroos" team which toured New Zealand and the magnificent reception they were given in each town. The team acquitted themselves well in spite of unfamiliar ground conditions.
- (3) It is expected that the chairman of the council (Mr. H. Ingham) will be well enough to resume duty in October. His return will be welcomed by all.
- (4) Semi-final draws are as follows:—
Dockerty Cup.—Fifers v. Brighton; Juventus v. J.U.S.T.
Reserve Cup.—Yallourn v. Prahran; Hakoah J.R.C. v. South Yarra.

Personal Notes.—

Polonia S.C. has won the Divisional Cup—their first Cup honor, but not their last. They are a very fine sportsmanlike team and a credit to the association.

Next season should see 10 teams in the Third and Fourth Divisions.

A tip to clubs who enter Reserve teams: If you cannot field two teams each week, do not enter two in the League. The League management committee is a little tired of awarding walk-overs.

Players who have been cautioned on the field will have to be careful in future. The "cautioned" list is growing and three cautions means a few weeks on the side lines.

Olympic Park, Sunday, October 7, 1951.—Make a note of this date. The ground has been granted to the V.A.S.F.A. for the purpose of staging two charity matches in aid of the 3DB Sporting Globe Children's Hospital Appeal. Soccer has not done very much for charity lately, so now is the time to make amends.

Sunday, October 7.—£300 is the target and the matches to be played will be announced at a later date. Soccer is being given the opportunity of showing that they can outshine other sporting bodies financially.

Last week I took on the job of collection man at the Divisional Cup Final. The collection was very good, and the two bob men (and women) were there in force.

S. BEATON, Secretary, V.A.S.F.A.

* * *

SPECIAL NOTICE

Cup Final Special Number will be considerably increased in size and end of season Club Notes will be welcomed for inclusion.

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How Soccer Is Controlled In Victoria

At a recent general meeting it was obvious that many newer clubs were unaware how the game is actually controlled in this State.

At the head of affairs stands the council of the V.A.S.F.A., but in control of the whole League competition is the League management committee. This committee in turn appoints the disciplinary committee to handle all offences which occur in League games.

The disciplinary committee this year is composed of two club men and one independent member (who is not a member of the council or League management committee).

Any club or player who is not satisfied with the decision of the disciplinary committee has the right of appeal. Such an appeal comes before the League management committee, which is composed of eight club members appointed by the clubs themselves. The chairman is a member of the council and is appointed by the council of the V.A.S.F.A.

Should the club or player be dissatisfied still a further appeal is permissible to the council. The council is composed of chairman (independent), deputy-chairman (clubs), hon. treasurer (independent), five independent councillors, and five club councillors.

The council views the Dockerty Cup and other cup competitions, and appoints its own disciplinary committee for these competitions only. This disciplinary committee is composed of three independent members.

Note.—The term "independent" here refers to a man who has no "club" connections whatever.

* * *

Readers who have been saving all their copies of "Soccer News" this season may get them tastefully bound into book form by our printers at the end of the season. Copies must be in the hands of Asher & Co., 285 Lennox Street, Richmond, within two weeks of the final number appearing and must be accompanied by a cheque or cash for the sum of 15/-, including tax and return postage.

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SAFETY FIRST

By REX BENSON



Many soccer followers were surprised that the gates were closed at Richmond for the England-Australian XI clash, with just over 30,000 in the ground, whereas crowds of more than 40,000 had previously been admitted to the enclosure. But at what risk to life and limb! The disgraceful conditions that prevailed at the ground exactly two years previously should have warned the authorities that only sheer luck prevented many deaths from crushing and trampling. In case this statement may be thought to be exaggerated, the following are two cases of such disasters occurring at over-crowded football grounds.

The first was at Ibrox Park, Glasgow, when an old wooden stand collapsed at an international match, and some of the players tore their shirts to strips as improvised bandages. The second, and more serious, was at Bolton in February, 1946, during one of the later round Cup Ties against Stoke City. The ground was closed before the kick-off, filled with a capacity crowd of more than 60,000. The popular side of the ground overlooked a railway siding, and one well-meaning man at the back of the crowd, who had cause later to regret his action, opened a small gate behind him, and several hundred locked-out spectators filtered in as soon as the opening was discovered. The pressure inside became too great, down went several crash barriers, and within a few minutes 30 dead bodies were laid out along the touch line, with most of the crowd unaware of what had happened, as the referee, wisely as it was thought, allowed the game to proceed.

Within a month similar scenes were being enacted at Maine Road, Manchester, where more than 80,000 fans packed the terraces to see the Cup Semi-Final replay between Derby County and Birmingham. The gates should have been closed earlier than they were, as it was not an all ticket game, and one late-comer was a youth of 17, who had been within ten yards of the tragic incident at Bolton. Undeterred by his previous narrow escape, he started to climb out onto the roof of the huge stand, and fell through the glass portion 30 feet above the dense throng. Luckily neither he nor the unfortunates who broke his fall were seriously injured, but were whisked immediately to hospital, missing the entire game as it happened in the first minute.

He certainly had not learnt a lesson, but I had. I was no more than a few yards from where the silly fellow landed, and soon realised that safety-first is always the best policy, especially where over-excited crowds are concerned.

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